

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (original): A drilling tool, comprising:

a first end adapted for attachment to a drill string;

a second end, opposite said first end, containing at least one carbide component, said carbide component comprising

a body portion comprising carbide, said body portion having a first end adapted for being seated in said drilling tool and a second, working, end;

wherein said second end of said carbide component has an outer layer which is attached to said body without a transition layer or adherent material and which contains an ultra-hard material.

7. (original): The bit of claim 6, wherein said carbide component has a binder content of less than 13%.

8. (original): The bit of claim 6, wherein said carbide component has a binder content of less than 11%.

9. (original): The bit of claim 6, wherein said carbide component is a hemispherical insert.

10. (original): The bit of claim 6, wherein said ultra-hard material is bare diamonds.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

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19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (new): A drilling tool, comprising:

a first end adapted for attachment to a drill string;

a second end, opposite said first end, containing at least one carbide component, said carbide component comprising

a body portion comprising carbide, said body portion having a first end adapted for being seated in said drilling tool and a second, working, end;

wherein said second end of said carbide component has an outer layer which is made of a different composition from said carbide component and is attached to said body without a transition layer or adherent material and which contains an ultra-hard material.

22. (new): A drilling tool, comprising:

a first end adapted for attachment to a drill string;

a second end, opposite said first end, containing at least one carbide component, said carbide component having a binder content of less than 11% and comprising

a body portion comprising carbide, said body portion having a first end adapted for being seated in said drilling tool and a second, working, end;

wherein said second end of said carbide component has an outer layer which is attached to said body without a transition layer or adherent material and which contains bare diamonds.